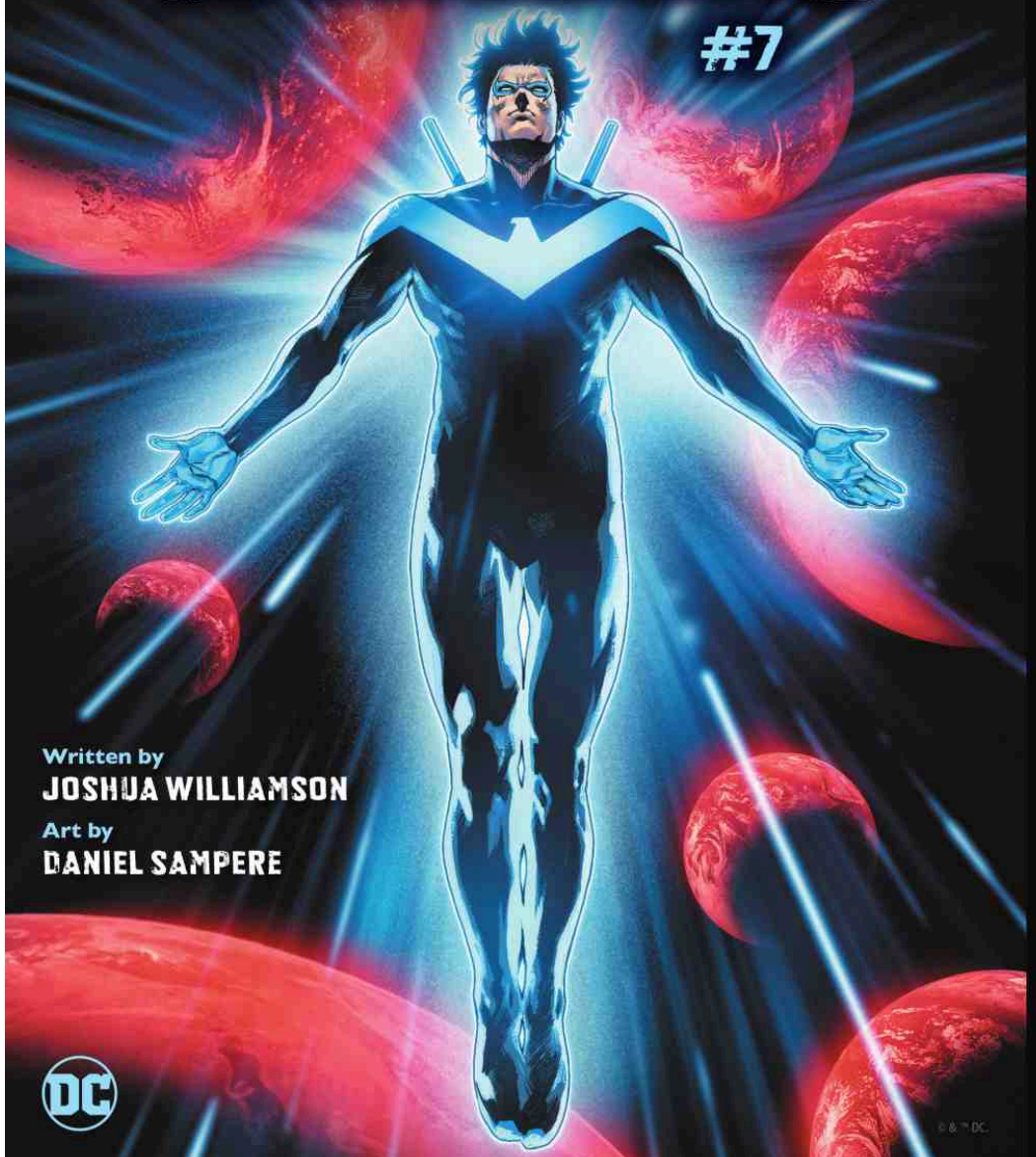
DC
13
BATGIRLS
CLOONAN
CONRAD
CASE
CASS CAIN
BATGIRL
STEPH BROWN
AGES 13+
DC.COM

THE FINAL WAR AGAINST DEATHSTROKE'S DARK ARMY —AND THE DAWN OF WHAT'S NEXT!

DARK CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS #7

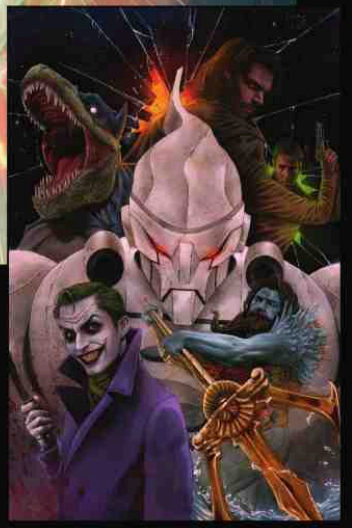


Written by
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
Art by
DANIEL SAMPERE

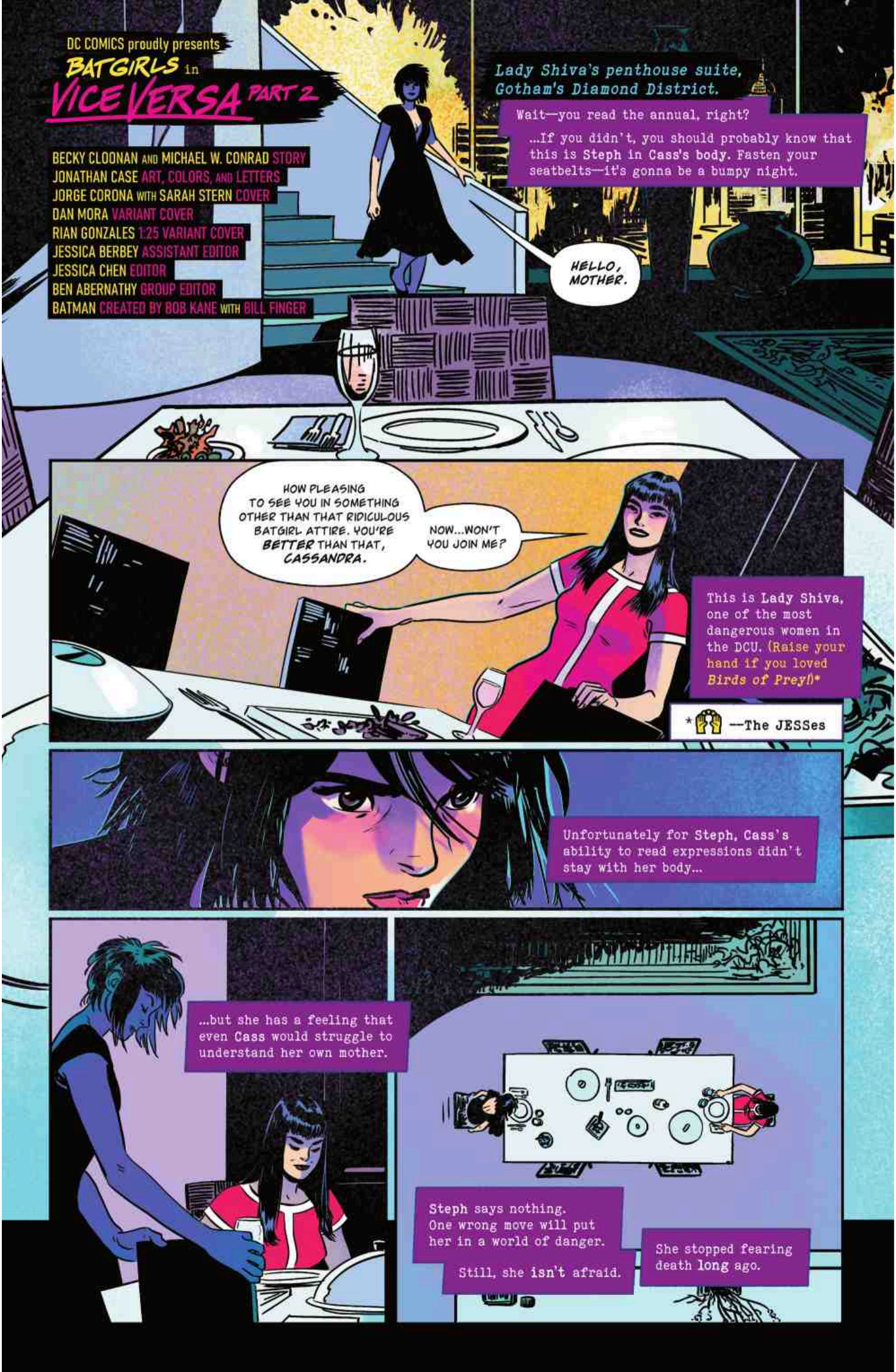
DC'S BLOCKBUSTER EVENT CONCLUDES IN DECEMBER!

Dark Crisis: War Zone #1
cover by Rafael Sarmento

- ☐ DARK CRISIS: WAR ZONE #1
- ☐ DARK CRISIS: BIG BANG #1
- ☐ DARK CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS #7



Dark Crisis: Big Bang #1
variant cover by Ariel Colón


DC COMICS proudly presents
BATGIRLS in
VICE VERSA PART 2
BECKY CLOONAN AND MICHAEL W. CONRAD STORY
JONATHAN CASE ART, COLORS, AND LETTERS
JORGE CORONA WITH SARAH STERN COVER
DAN MORA VARIANT COVER
RIAN GONZALES 1:25 VARIANT COVER
JESSICA BERBEY ASSISTANT EDITOR
JESSICA CHEN EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY GROUP EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER
Lady Shiva's penthouse suite, Gotham's Diamond District.
Wait—you read the annual, right?
...If you didn't, you should probably know that this is Steph in Cass's body. Fasten your seatbelts—it's gonna be a bumpy night.
HELLO, MOTHER.
HOW PLEASING TO SEE YOU IN SOMETHING OTHER THAN THAT RIDICULOUS BATGIRL ATTIRE. YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT, CASSANDRA.
NOW...WON'T YOU JOIN ME?
This is Lady Shiva, one of the most dangerous women in the DCU. (Raise your hand if you loved Birds of Prey!)*
*—The JESSes
Unfortunately for Steph, Cass's ability to read expressions didn't stay with her body...
...but she has a feeling that even Cass would struggle to understand her own mother.
Steph says nothing. One wrong move will put her in a world of danger.
Still, she isn't afraid.
She stopped fearing death long ago.

A TOAST--
TO REUNIONS.
THOUGH THERE IS SOMETHING...DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU. I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT.
YOU'VE CHANGED.
MAYBE IT'S JUST BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE LAST SEEN ME.
WHAT ABOUT THE ART MUSEUM? I THOUGHT I MADE MY PRESENCE OBVIOUS.
...SKULKING IN MY PERIPHERIES HARDLY COUNTS AS MOTHER-DAUGHTER TIME.
A FAIR POINT. BUT I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO ARGUE SEMANTICS!
I HAD THIS MEAL PREPARED SPECIALLY FOR YOU. COME, TRY THE VEAL.
UM...I'M ACTUALLY A VEGETARIAN NOW.
THEN HAVE THE BROCCOLI. I ASSURE YOU, IT'S NOT POISONED.

I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE.
THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS IS BACK-- ONE OF THEIR BLADES WAS BROKEN AT THE SCENE OF A DOUBLE MURDER.
I KNEW YOU WOULD FIND IT. I LEFT IT AS A WARNING...
TWO PEOPLE WERE KILLED. THEIR DAUGHTER WAS ORPHANED--
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT. I'VE ALWAYS KEPT ONE EYE ON THE LEAGUE, TO STOP THEM IF THEY GO TOO FAR--
THAT LITTLE GIRL WAS WHY I INTERVENED.
YOU SEE, SHE REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE...
SADLY, NO, NOT YOU.
I KNOW CASSANDRA, AS I KNOW MY OWN BEATING HEART-- AND YOU ARE NOT HER.
NOW...
SPEAK THE TRUTH, OR I SHALL CUT IT FROM YOU.
WHERE IS MY DAUGHTER?

Elsewhere...
MMNG--
YOU'RE AWAKE.
GOOD.
I HATE THAT IT CAME TO THIS...
YOU'LL FEEL PRETTY OUT OF IT FOR A FEW HOURS, BUT DON'T WORRY. THE SICKNESS WILL PASS.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR A WHILE.
YOU KNEW THAT, THOUGH. YOU SAW MY CLUES, DIDN'T YOU?
...BLOOD OF MY BLOOD, AND ALL THAT.

=SIGH= IT ISN'T EASY BEING A DAD.
AND I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE FOR YOU-- AT LEAST, NOT IN THE WAYS A FATHER SHOULD.
I WON'T TRY TO MAKE EXCUSES. I'VE BEEN SELFISH--I SEE THAT NOW. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE PRESENT IN YOUR LIFE.
YOU PROBABLY HEARD THAT I DIED. WELL...
I DID.
I WAS TECHNICALLY DEAD FOR THREE DAYS.
AND AS I BLED OUT, DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY LAST THOUGHTS WERE?
THEY WERE OF YOU.

MEANWHILE, AT WAYNE MANOR...
CREAM AND SUGAR?
BLACK IS FINE. GOD, THAT SMELLS AMAZING.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO INDULGE A COFFEE HABIT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE LAVISH ABOUT IT.
SORRY ABOUT THE DUST.
PLEASE, BRUCE. I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU OPENING UP WAYNE MANOR JUST SO I COULD USE YOUR LIBRARY.
YOU'VE GOT AN IMPRESSIVE OCCULT COLLECTION. I BET EVEN CONSTANTINE WOULD BE IMPRESSED.
THE LAST TIME JOHN WAS HERE, HE LEFT A CIGARETTE BUTT IN DANTE'S INFERNO.
THAT MAN HAS LOST HIS LIBRARY PRIVILEGES.
GOOD THING I'M WEARING GLOVES, THEN. THIS MANUSCRIPT ON SIGILS DATES BACK TO THE 1600s.
IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I TRACED THE ENGRAVING ON THE COIN...
...TURNS OUT IT'S MAGIC.

HMM. NOT EXACTLY MY FIELD OF EXPERTISE.
YOU THINK THEIR BODY SWAP WAS SOME KIND OF SPELL?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I THINK. I'M ENOUGH OF A SKEPTIC TO ALWAYS LOOK FOR A RATIONAL EXPLANATION--
YOU TAUGHT ME THAT.
...BUT?
BUT I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO HELP MY FRIENDS, NO MATTER HOW UNORTHODOX.
WE BOTH KNOW MAGIC EXISTS... WE'VE SEEN IT. AND YET...
AND YET, BOTH OF US ARE SO LOGICAL THAT IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IN IT, EVEN WHEN IT'S STARING US IN THE FACE.
WHICH IS WHY I'VE CALLED IN AN EXPERT.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, I LET MYSELF IN.
THANKS FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE...

...ZATANNA.
BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING, IT'S LAUNDRY DAY. LUCKILY FISHNETS NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE!
AS FOR THIS MAGIC COIN OF YOURS, HOW ABOUT YOU START BY OFFERING ME A CUP OF COFFEE?
I'M A GUEST, AFTER ALL-- IT'S ONLY POLITE.
CREAM AND SUGAR, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
OH, AND A SCONE WOULD BE LOVELY. YOU DO HAVE SCONES, DON'T YOU?

Meanwhile...
CRASH
SKINGG
YOU LITTLE CHANGELING! DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD TRICK ME? LADY SHIVA?!
YEAH, I KINDA DID!
IT IS CASS'S BODY, THOUGH. I'M JUST BORROWING IT!
YOU CERTAINLY DON'T FIGHT LIKE MY DAUGHTER. SHE'S PRECISE, REFINED, ARTFUL.
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND-- YOU'RE SLOPPY!

I PLAY TO MY STRENGTHS!
CRASH!
Steph is a risk-taker. She leaps without looking, figuring it out on the fly.
Spontaneity is what makes her dangerous.
And right now, Shiva can't read her moves. Even Steph doesn't know what she's gonna do next.
KSSHT
In this way, chaos is a legitimate strategy.
YOU OAF! THAT CHAIR WAS ONE OF A KIND!
SHOW SOME RESPECT--
SO YOU'RE SAYING I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T THROW THIS THING EITHER?

=HUP= I'LL TAKE THAT AS A NO.
I'M NOT CASS. QUIPPING IS A SKILL.
MUST YOU QUIP SO MUCH? IT'S AN IRKSOME HABIT. CASS WOULD NEVER--
NO, IT'S A DEFENSE MECHANISM-- BECAUSE YOU'VE ALREADY LOST.
THOK
I ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME, IMPOSTER.
WHO ARE YOU?
FINE! YOU WIN-- I...
I'M...THE OTHER BATGIRL.

"...AND CASS IS IN MY BODY."
YOU MUST REMEMBER WHERE WE ARE BY NOW, RIGHT?
A VACATION IS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED. A GETAWAY FROM GOTHAM...
THAT CITY WILL BE THE DEATH OF ME.
THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT ALREADY WAS.
HAHAHA HA HA.
FLIK
C'MON, STEPHIE. LET'S GET YOU INSIDE.

It used to be fashionable for old mansions to have a hidden séance room. Wayne Manor is no exception.
Bruce can't think of the last time he was inside it.
I NEED TOTAL SILENCE IF THIS IS GOING TO WORK.
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
NO. BUT YOU WERE THINKING, WHICH WAS LOUD ENOUGH. NOW...
A CIGAM NIOC SAH SEDIS FO EERHT, SDAEH DNA SLIAT LAECNOC EHT YEK.
REVEAL TO ME THE FACES. ALL WHOSE HANDS HAVE TOUCHED THIS COIN...
THREE OF THEM YOU KNOW, THE LAST IS THE ONE YOU LOOK FOR...
I SEE A SIGN UNDER THE MOON...CARDS, RUNES, PALMS...
AND A WORD... DOZA...
STEPH SAID IT WAS AN OLD WOMAN WHO GAVE HER THE COIN--
THAT'S GOTTA BE WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

YES! WE'VE GOT HER. THANK YOU, ZATANNA.
OF COURSE. THIS WAS FUN. WE SHOULD HANG OUT MORE OFTEN!
CHECKING ARKHAM'S MUGSHOT DATABASE?
TAKKA TAKKA TAK TAK
NOPE. I FOUND SOMETHING BETTER...
THE LATEST GOTHAM TELEPHONE BOOK.
ACE CHEMICALS
CLEANER, GREENER, SERENER.
DAME CAMI DOZA
PSYCHIC TO THE STARS
-CARDS-RUNES-PALM
SHALL WE GO?
SURE. CAN WE TAKE YOUR CAR, THOUGH?
FINE.
I'M DRIVING.

WE'RE AT AN IMPASSE.
KILLING ME MEANS KILLING YOUR DAUGHTER, TOO. I KNOW YOU WON'T DO THAT.
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE? I'VE DONE IT BEFORE.*
CASS WOULDN'T HAVE LET ME GO WITH YOU IF SHE THOUGHT I'D BE IN DANGER.
A PART OF HER MUST TRUST YOU--
YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE TWO OF US!
*Batgirl #25 (2002) —Jess C.
CASSANDRA WAS ALL OF MY RAGE, MY AMBITIONS, MY DREAMS-- SHE WAS EVERYTHING.
WITHOUT HER... WHAT AM I?
I POURED MY PASSION, MY ANGER INTO HER. MY ONLY WISH WAS THAT ONE DAY SHE WOULD BE BETTER THAN ME.
TROK
DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BUT...
SHE IS.

YOU DON'T SEE HER THE WAY I DO.
HER WHOLE LIFE, YOU'VE TRIED TO MOLD CASS INTO WHAT YOU WANTED HER TO BE. ANYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE CRACKED UNDER THAT PRESSURE.
YOU AND CASS ARE A LOT ALIKE. YOU'RE BOTH STUBBORN, COCKY, INFURIATINGLY GOOD AT EVERYTHING.
BUT SHE'S HER OWN PERSON. I HONESTLY CAN'T SAY IF IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU OR IN SPITE OF YOU.
IF YOU COULD JUST STEP BACK, YOU'D REALIZE THAT SHE'S PERFECT.
I DON'T REGRET MY CHOICES. I NEVER WILL.
BUT, YES...
I LOVE HER.

MAY I ASK A FAVOR OF YOU? AS MY DAUGHTER'S FRIEND?
I MEAN, THAT DEPENDS...
TELL CASSANDRA THAT I'M PROUD OF HER.
WHY CAN'T YOU TELL HER YOURSELF?
I WISH IT WERE SO SIMPLE.
MAYBE YOU CAN'T SAY IT RIGHT NOW...

"...BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE WILL HOLD?"
THE HANGED MAN, FIVE OF CUPS, NINE OF SWORDS...
SACRIFICE, REGRET, ANGUISH.
THAT'S A BAD FORTUNE IF I'VE EVER SEEN ONE--BUT I DON'T CHOOSE THE CARDS.
SORRY, HON. YOU'RE CUTE, BUT YA STILL GOTTA PAY.
I HOPE YOU TAKE COINS...
HOLD ON.
ARE WE JUST GOING TO SKIP OVER THE FACT THAT HER NAME-- DAME CAMI DOZA-- IS AN ANAGRAM?
NOT THE BEST WAY TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITY A SECRET...
TINK
MADAME ZODIAC.
FWS
SHH

AT YOUR SERVICE...
I WAS GETTING A LITTLE BORED OF THAT DISGUISE ANYWAY. SO, WHAT VEXES YOU?
THE BATGIRLS DIDN'T LIKE THE WISH I GRANTED THEM? IT WAS ALL IN GOOD FAITH, I PROMISE.
WHAT EXACTLY DID THEY WISH FOR, AND CAN IT BE REVERSED?
ALL WISHES ARE FINAL, DEARY. IT'S AN OLD RULE I CALL NO BACKSIES.
AS FOR WHAT THEY WISHED FOR...
I'M SENSING THAT THE SPELL WAS TO WALK A DAY IN EACH OTHER'S SHOES. A BETTER WISH THAN MOST.
A DAY... 24 HOURS?
WHAT TIME IS IT?
IF THIS IS THE CASE, THEY'LL BE SWITCHING INTO THEIR OWN BODIES SOON!
IF THEY DON'T CHANGE BACK...
I'LL COME FOR YOU.
=GIGGLE=
OH, BATMAN. I VERY MUCH WISH THAT YOU DO.

MOTHER...
CASSANDRA...
YOU'RE BACK.
YES. WHY DID YOU WANT TO SPEAK TO ME?
WHERE IS MY BATSUIT?
...WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
AS YOU PROBABLY GUESSED, I WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS.
YOUR OUTFIT IS UPSTAIRS.
...AND I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE MESS.

THE LEAGUE CAN WAIT. THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.
YOU DON'T NEED ME TO HANDLE THEM--
WAIT!
THE LEAGUE IS AIMLESS-- A MACHINE WITHOUT PURPOSE, A DEMON WITHOUT A HEAD!
WE COULD DEFEAT THEM...OR EVEN LEAD THEM. THERE'S NO LIMIT TO WHAT WE COULD ACCOMPLISH... TOGETHER.
MY FRIEND IS IN TROUBLE, MOTHER. I HAVE TO HELP HER.
YOU ARE STUBBORN.
I SUPPOSE THE OTHER BATGIRL WAS RIGHT. WE DO HAVE THAT IN COMMON.
GO. FIND YOUR FRIEND.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

NO ONE IS COMING FOR YOU.
RIP
NO ONE EVEN KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE.
D...DAD?
WELCOME HOME, STEPHANIE.
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF CATCHING UP TO DO.
NEXT ISSUE: THE REST IS SILENCE.

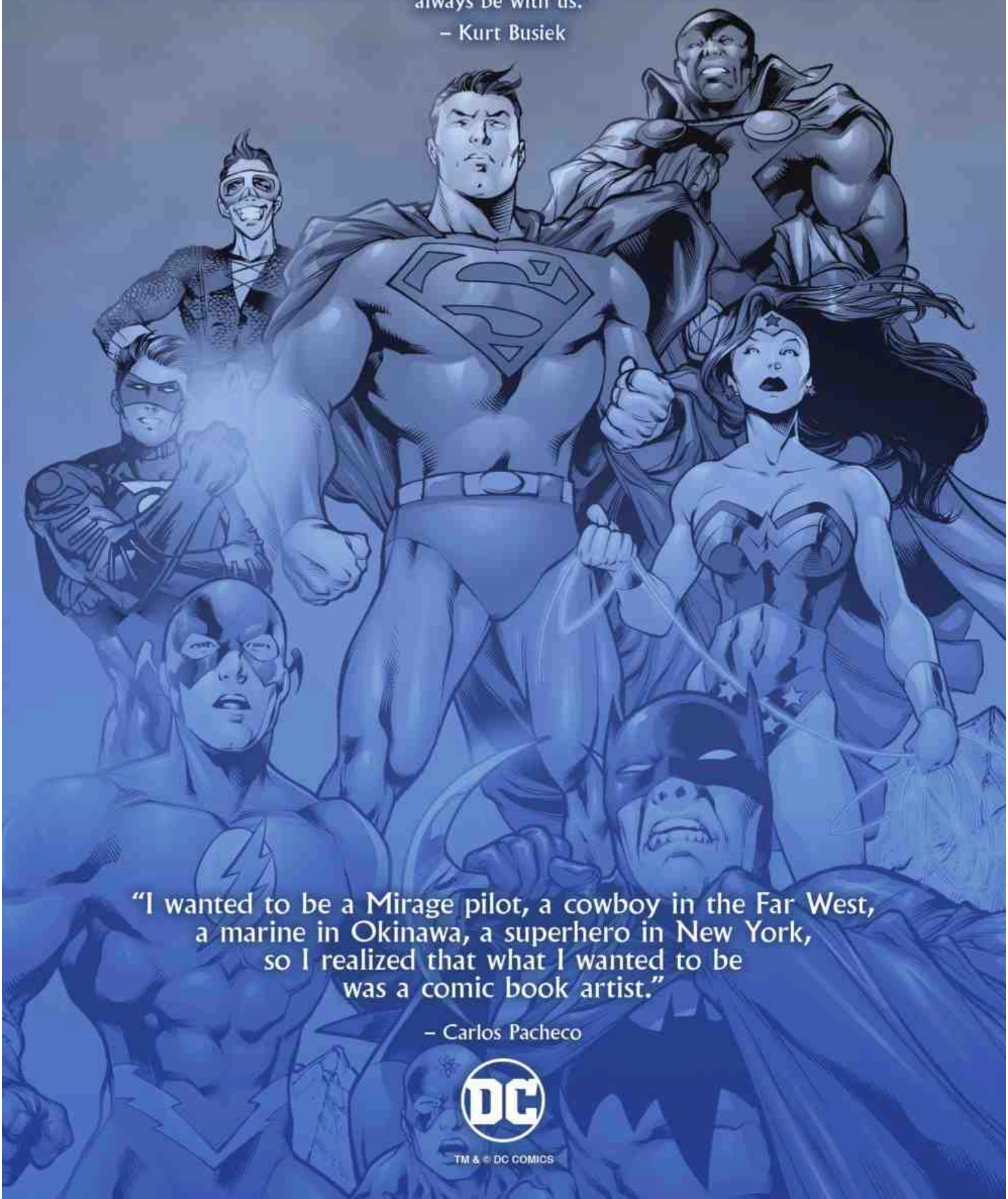
CARLOS PACHECO
1961-2022

"To say that Carlos was a giant among giants is an understatement. He affected so many artists in so many ways, including myself, that his influence will be seen for a very long time to come. Not only as an artist but as a person, I had the opportunity of being close with him for years. He will be greatly missed."

– Jesús Merino

"Carlos's great strength wasn't just his majestic artwork, his elegant storytelling—it was that he made you believe. He knew the characters he drew inside out, like they were family, and that came through in every panel he drew. He was a creative partner without peer, and an even better friend. The world is an emptier place without him, but the worlds he brought to life will always be with us."

– Kurt Busiek



"I wanted to be a Mirage pilot, a cowboy in the Far West, a marine in Okinawa, a superhero in New York, so I realized that what I wanted to be was a comic book artist."

– Carlos Pacheco

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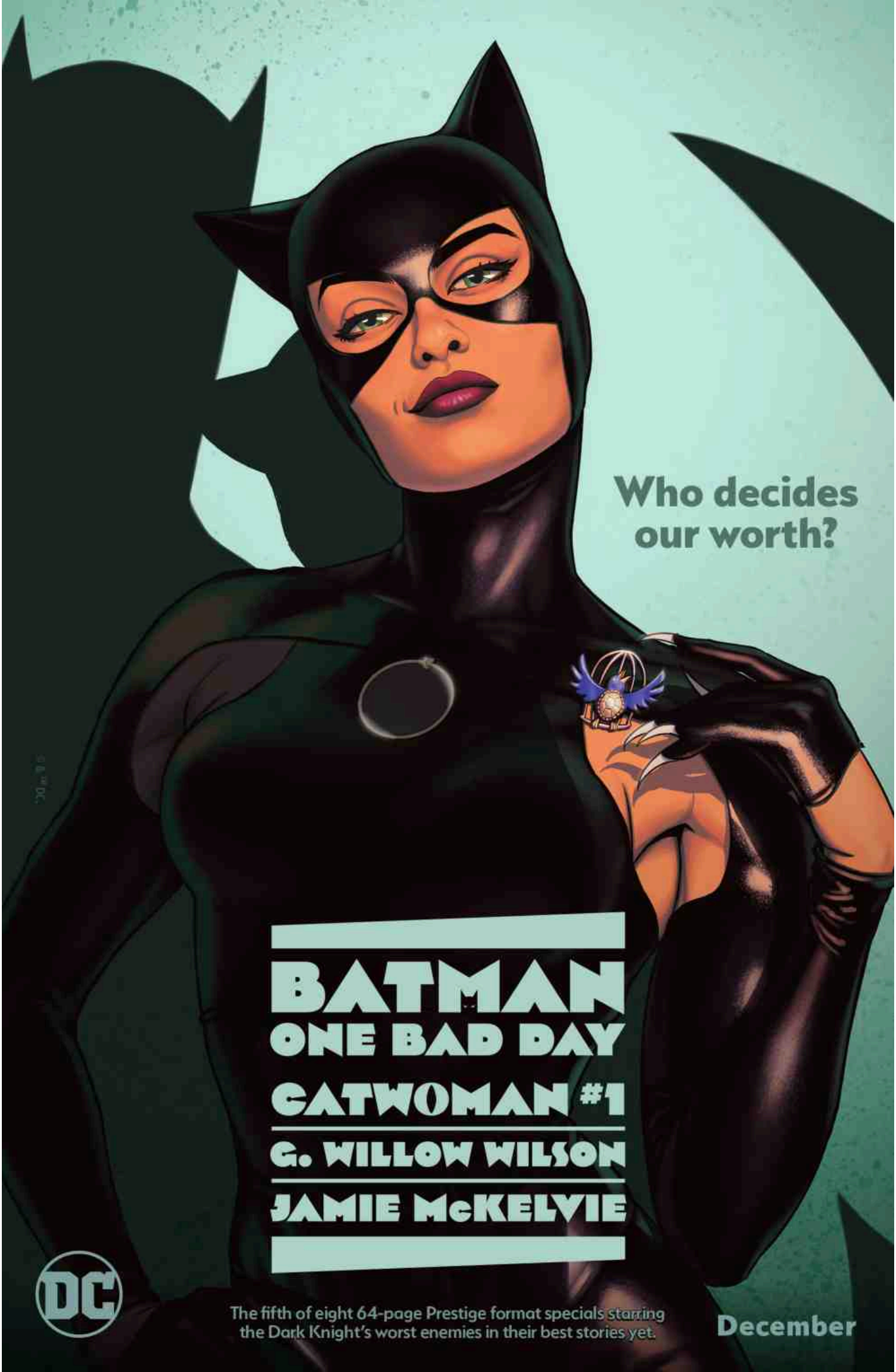
Who decides our worth?
BATMAN
ONE BAD DAY
CATWOMAN #1
G. WILLOW WILSON
JAMIE McKELVIE
DC
The fifth of eight 64-page Prestige format specials starring the Dark Knight's worst enemies in their best stories yet.
December

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

SUPERMAN ACTION COMICS #1050

OVERSIZED ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

The most historic series in superhero comic books hits a major milestone this December with *Action Comics* #1050! This oversized anniversary issue is both the culmination of two years' worth of Superman stories and the beginning of a brand-new era—and with Kal-El back on Earth, Lex Luthor is poised to deliver his most personal attack yet.

The issue—featuring the all-star creative team of writers Phillip Kennedy Johnson, Tom Taylor, and Joshua Williamson plus artists Mike Perkins, Clayton Henry, and Nick Dragotta—will launch the Man of Steel and his extended family into a very exciting 2023. To properly celebrate, *Action Comics* #1050 arrives with a host of more than 25 stunning variant covers. Here's just a sample of what to look for at your local comics shop.

Action Comics #1050 main cover by Steve Beach

Action Comics #1050 variant cover by Lee Weeks

Action Comics #1050 variant cover by Steve Lieber

Action Comics #1050 variant cover by Mike Perkins

Action Comics #1050 1:100 variant cover by Steve Rude

Action Comics #1050 variant cover by Jim Lee

DON'T MISS *ACTION COMICS* #1050 (AND ALL 25+ COVERS) ON SALE IN DECEMBER!

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